6. Laniarius castaneiceps, sp. n.

Similis *L. luhderi*, Rchnw., sed cauda rufescenti-brunnea distinguendus. Long. tot. 7·3, culm. 0·9, alæ 3·2, caud. 3, tarsi 1·1.

Hab. Mount Elgon.

Family Turdidæ.

7. Merula elgonensis, sp. n.

Similis *T. cabanisi*, Bp., sed gula et pectore concoloribus griescentibus, haud striatis distinguendus. Long. tot. 8·5, culm. 0·9, alæ 4·2, caudæ 3·4, tarsi 1·15.

Hab. Mount Elgon.

8. Myrmecocichla cryptoleuca, sp. n.

Similis *M. æthiopi*, Licht., sed nigricans, minime brunnescens. Long. tot. 7·5, culm. 0·9, alæ 4·6, caudæ 2·5, tarsi 1·35.

Hab. Kikuyu.

Family Timeliidæ.

9. Crateropus buxtoni, sp. n.

Similis *C. plebeio*, Cretzschm., sed gula albicante, plumis gutturalibus medialiter albo lineatis, et dorsi plumis medialiter nigricantibus distinguendus. Long. tot. 8·5, culm. 0·95, alæ 4·15, caudæ 3·7, tarsi 1·3.

Hab. Turquel, Suk country.

Family Muscicapidæ.

10. Platystira jacksoni, sp. n.

Similis *P. cyaneæ*, sed alis nigris minime albo-notatis distinguenda. Long. tot. 5·3, culm. 0·65, alæ 2·7, caudæ 2·05, tarsi 0·75.

Hab. Sotik.

XXXIX.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.*

[Continued from p. 293.]

64. *Borrer's 'Birds of Sussex.'*

[The Birds of Sussex. By William Borrer, M.A., F.L.S. 8vo. London: 1891. R. H. Porter.]

The late Mr. Knox's work, 'Ornithological Rambles in

Sussex,' admirable though it was at the time of its publication (1849), has long been out of date; and Mr. Borrer's handsome volume, with its five coloured plates by Keulemans, is undoubtedly a valuable addition to our county avifaunas. Much interesting matter will be found in the letterpress, but sometimes facts connected with Sussex have been omitted: for instance, the remarkable fertile hybrids between the Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla lugubris*) and the Grey Wagtail (*M. melanope*), produced in Mr. Monk's aviary at Lewes, are not mentioned. Mr. Borrer may have reasons for disbelieving in the locality assigned to the Short-toed Lark recorded from Amberley (Zoologist, 1888, p. 350); but he might at least mention them, and not pass over the statement in silence. Although unconnected with Sussex, there can be no objection to the information given at p. 114, that the first British nest of the Snow Bunting *with eggs* had lately [1888] been obtained in Scotland; but Mr. Borrer must not suppose that it is the earliest record, for a nest with five young birds was found in Sutherlandshire in 1885, and a coloured figure of one of the nestlings, with a photograph of the corrie where it was taken and full particulars, are given in Messrs. Harvie-Brown and Buckley's 'Fauna of Sutherland, Caithness, &c.' Again, it is incorrect to say of the Rustic Bunting that the only example which has occurred in England is the one taken near Brighton in 1867, for two other well-authenticated instances are on record (Zool. 1881, p. 465; 1883, p. 33). As regards the Pine Grosbeak, it is not in "the same paper" (Zool. 1877, p. 247), but in one in Zool. for 1890, p. 127, that Mr. Gurney alludes to a bird obtained at Shoreham. On the next page Mr. Gurney has recorded the significant fact that a few years ago some birds of this species were sent in a frozen state from Russia to the principal poulterer at Brighton!

Misprints are few in the present work, but there are several slips, and one of the latter is amusing. Mr. Borrer has got his heading "Mistletoe Thrush" severely correct (except for the omission of a hyphen), but on the next page, in the last paragraph, the old Adam breaks out, and "*Missel* Thrush"

appears in the form with which Willughby, White, Montagu, Yarrell, Hewitson, Cordeaux, Stevenson, the B.O.U. List, and other authorities have familiarized us!

65. *Brewster on new North-American Birds.*

[Descriptions of seven supposed new North-American Birds. By William Brewster. 'The Auk,' viii. p. 139.]

The subspecies described in this article are *Megascops asio aikeni* from Colorado; *M. a. macfarlanei* from Washington Terr.; *M. a. saturatus* from Puget Sound; *Contopus richardsoni peninsulæ* from Lower California; *Ammodramus henslowii occidentalis* from Dakota; and *Pipilo maculatus magnirostris*, *Virio solitarius lucasanus*, and *Sitta carolinensis lagunæ*, all three from Lower California.

66. *Christy's Local Lists of British Birds.*

[A Catalogue of Local Lists of British Birds, arranged under Counties. By Miller Christy, F.L.S. 8vo. London: 1891.]

Mr. Christy has done a good deed in preparing a catalogue of the local lists of British birds, which are now becoming very numerous. The titles of the works catalogued are placed under counties, the latter being divided into England and Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, and arranged alphabetically under these three heads. But the works themselves are arranged chronologically.

The list appears to contain about 450 titles.

67. *Dalla Torre on the Fauna of Heligoland.*

[Die Fauna von Helgoland. Von Prof. Dr. K. W. v. Dalla Torre. 8vo. Jena: 1889.]

It is now quite understood that Heligoland is to be the seat of a new Biological Station to be founded and endowed by the Imperial Government of Germany. To no better purpose in our eyes could the German people apply their recent acquisition. Under these circumstances Prof. Dalla Torre's *résumé* of what we as yet know of the Fauna

of Heligoland will come in very conveniently as a basis for future researches. Prof. Dalla Torre passed only a vacation in the island. His memoir is accordingly mainly a compilation, but appears to be thoroughly and conscientiously done. A complete review of the zoological literature relating to Heligoland is prefaced, and the titles of 128 memoirs on the subject are given in footnotes.

As regards the account of the birds given in the present memoir we need not say much. All observations on the birds of Heligoland depend upon Herr Gätke, who has studied its avifauna for the last thirty years. Herr Gätke has now published his long-promised volume on the subject, and it is to that volume that references must be made in future. But Dalla Torre's list will still be useful, and gives a good idea of the extraordinary wealth of the Ornis of Heligoland. It is arranged according to the system and nomenclature of Dresser's 'List of European Birds.'

68. *Dwight on the Horned Larks of North America.*

[The Horned Larks of North America. By Jonathan Dwight, Jun. 'The Auk,' vii. p. 138.]

Mr. Dwight has made a special study of the American Larks of the genus *Otocorys,* and with the assistance of his friends and correspondents has been able to examine a series of 2002 specimens of this group. The conclusion arrived at is that the various local forms "intergrade" so much that trinomialism does not satisfy the problem, although it "gives relief." Mr. Dwight concludes to call the form of N.E. North America *O. alpestris,* as identical with that of Northern Europe, and to arrange 10 other forms from different areas as subspecies. Of these, *O. a. adusta* from Southern Arizona and New Mexico, and *O. a. merrilli* from Eastern Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia, are now differentiated for the first time. A capital outline map is added showing the areas of the 11 forms very plainly.

69. *Evans on the Birds of the Spey Valley.*

[Birds observed in the Valley of the Spey, 1889. By Wm. Evans, F.R.S.E. 'Scottish Naturalist,' 1891, p. 5.]

The January number of the 'Scottish Naturalist' for this year commenced a new series, under the Editorship of Mr. W. Eagle Clarke, of the B.O.U. Amongst the ornithological papers is a list of the birds observed in the valley of the Spey, prepared by Mr. William Evans, also of our Union. Mr. Evans enumerates 90 species as observed during his holiday in this district in 1889, when his abode was at Kincraig, near Loch Insch. *Parus cristatus* was often seen in the pine-woods, and is "by no means rare;" they were always in company with Cole-Tits and Gold-crests.

70. *Fürbringer on the Systematic Position of* Hesperornis.

[Ueber die systematische Stellung der Hesperornithidæ. Von Max. Fürbringer. Ornith. Monats. Deutsch. Ver. z. Schutze d. Vogelw. xv. p. 488.]

In this memoir, after some prefatory remarks on the general history of the subject, Dr. Fürbringer recapitulates all that he said in his great work on the 'Morphology of Birds' on the systematic position of the Hesperornithidæ, and maintains that he has little or nothing to alter. It would appear, therefore, that he is not quite in accord with D'Arcy Thompson and Lydekker, who hold that *Hesperornis* is simply an old ancestor of the Colymbo-Podicipites and has nothing to do with the Struthiones.

71. *Godman and Salvin's 'Biologia Centrali-Americana.'*

[Biologia Centrali-Americana; or, Contributions to the Knowledge of the Fauna and Flora of Mexico and Central America. Edited by F. DuCane Godman and Osbert Salvin. (Zoology.) Part XCI. 4to. London: 1891. Published for the Editors by R. H. Porter, 10 Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W.]

The present part of the 'Biologia' (see above, p. 276) carries on the account of the Central-American Cotingidæ nearly to its termination. As regards the typical genus *Cotinga* some new advances are made. It is pointed out that the remarkable differences in the comparative lengths and forms of the primaries in the adult males are sufficient to distinguish the eight known species, or most of them;

and a new arrangement of the species of *Cotinga* based on these characters, which are illustrated by figures, is suggested.

72. *Goodchild on Crested Birds of Prey.*

[Notes on Crested Birds of Prey. By J. G. Goodchild, F.Z.S. Proc. R. Phys. Soc. Edinb. x. p. 202.]

Assimilative or protective coloration and even sexual selection, Mr. Goodchild says, appear hardly to have affected the Birds of Prey at all. Their colours are mostly sober combinations of white, with various shades of brown, grey, and buff, and almost their only decorative feature is the elongation of one or other of the various patches of head-feathers into a so-called crest. After discussing the various styles of crest, the author insists on regarding the "possession of a crest as a character older than the species," and upon studying the distribution of crested Accipitres, discovers that with hardly an exception they are absent in the Nearctic, Palæarctic and Australian Regions. For a hypothetical explanation of where this peculiar feature may have originated we must refer our readers to the author's own words.

73. *Goodchild on the Cubital Coverts of Birds.*

[The Cubital Coverts of the Euornithæ in Relation to Taxonomy. By J. G. Goodchild, F.Z.S. Proc. R. Phys. Soc. Edinb. x. p. 317.]

After some excellent prefatory remarks on modern principles of zoological classification, Mr. Goodchild puts forward his most recent views on the disposition of the cubital coverts in the Euornithes (for we cannot follow him in his irregular plural of *ornis*), as arrived at since the publication of his paper on the same subject in 1886 (P. Z. S. 1886, p. 184). Mr. Goodchild adopts, with some small modifications, Wray's nomenclature for the feathers of the bird's-wing published in 1887 (P. Z. S. 1887, p. 343). His general conclusion is that "a particular style of overlap or imbrication of the several feathers in each row of the external

cubital coverts and a particular number of feathers in each row are absolutely constant for all the individuals of the same species, for all the species of the same genus, and for all the genera in the same family or even order." For instance, all the Acromyodine Passeres and nearly all the Mesomyodians "exhibit absolutely the same general style of wing-coverts," which is not found in any other group of birds. This principle applies also with more or less truth to the other Orders. Mr. Goodchild points out eleven different "styles" into which the Euornithes fall when considered under this aspect, commencing with the "Cypseline Style" (the most simple) and ending with the "Tubinarine Style," under which head he includes the Cathartæ. "So far as wing-style is concerned the American Vultures differ entirely from the normal Birds of Prey, and exactly agree with the Petrels, the Albatrosses, the Frigate-birds and the Adjutants." Mr. Goodchild has also made a discovery which may help to solve the great mystery of "aquincubitalism" (*cf.* Ibis, 1890, p. 79). It would appear that "from the point where the fifth cubital remex is missing there is a marked disturbance in the position of all the coverts." But upon this intricate subject we must refer our readers for further information to the author's paper.

74. *Goss's Birds of Kansas.*

[History of the Birds of Kansas. By N. S. Goss. Royal 8vo. Topeka, Kansas: 1891.]

Col. Goss has favoured us with a copy of his volume on the Birds of Kansas, which we have great pleasure in commending to our readers. It gives us an account of the 343 species and subspecies which have been recognized as occurring within the limits of this central State of the American Union. The arrangement and nomenclature followed are naturally those of the A.O.U., and the descriptions are mostly copied from the standard works on American Ornithology.

The volume is illustrated by "photo-gravures" of 529

mounted specimens which form the "Goss Collection." This in the prospectus of the work is described as follows :—

"The Goss Ornithological Collection is solely the work of this author. Each specimen has been obtained and preserved by his own effort, and the entire collection—which is one of the largest in the country, the result of one man's exertions —has been presented to the State of Kansas, and is on exhibition in a room in the State House set apart by law for that purpose; and his entire time and fortune are devoted to its perfection; long and expensive trips are annually made to increase the collection. Within a few years he has generously prepared for the State, without cost, two separate catalogues of Kansas Birds."

75. *Hart on the Birds of Sinai.*

[Some Account of the Fauna and Flora of Sinai, Petra, and Wâdy Arabah. By Henry Chichester Hart. London. Published for the Committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund, 1891. 1 vol. 4to.]

Mr. Hart accompanied Prof. Hull in his geological expedition to Sinai and the Dead Sea in 1883. His main object was to study the Botany of the district, but other branches of Natural History were not neglected.

Mr. Hart commences with a narrative of his journey, interspersed with remarks on the Fauna and Flora. He then gives systematic lists of the species of various groups, accompanied by field-notes. The chapter on birds relates to species observed in Sinai, Arabia Petræa, and South Palestine from November to February. They were 94 in number. Amongst them are mentioned such interesting species as *Cercomela melanura, Sylvia nana, Argya squamiceps, Pycnonotus xanthopygus, Cinnyris oseæ, Passer moabiticus, Amydrus tristrami,* and *Rhynchæa capensis*, the last new to the Fauna of Sinai.

76. *Hartert on three new Birds.*

[Vorläufiges über einige neue Vogelarten. Von Ernst Hartert. J. f. O. 1890, p. 154.]

These are preliminary descriptions of supposed new species

discovered by Herr Hartert during his preparation of the catalogue of birds in the Senckenberg Museum. They are named *Crateropus larvatus* from Madras (!), *Iole schmakeri* from Mindoro, Philippines, and *Ammomanes lusitanica parvirostris* from Aschabat. *Crateropus larvatus* may be new, but is almost certainly not from any part of British India.

77. *Hartlaub on Birds from Eastern Africa.*

[Vierter Beitrag zur Ornithologie der östlich-äquatorialen Länder und der östlichen Küstengebiete Afrikas. Von Dr. G. Hartlaub. Abhandl. naturw. Ver. Bremen, xii. Heft 1.]

Dr. Hartlaub now gives us a fourth paper on the birds sent by Emin Pasha from Eastern Africa. The present memoir relates to collections made by Emin during his journey from Albert Nyanza to the coast along with Stanley's Expedition, and during his prolonged sojourn at Bagamoyo. At the latter epoch Emin was, as is well known, grievously ill and could not give that special attention to his specimens which was his ordinary habit. To these personal collections are added a series obtained by Bohndorf (well known for his splendid collection from the Niam-niam country, described by Dr. Sharpe in 1884*) at Mtoni, on the Kingani. Altogether, therefore, the present memoir relates to some 140 species, on the general distinctness of which from those of Emin's former collections from Wadelai and other neighbouring districts of the Equatorial Sudan Dr. Hartlaub comments strongly. The present collection contains examples of many species discovered by Fischer in Masailand, and of others obtained by Böhm and Fischer during their journey to the Tanganyika, together with many southern forms, such as *Malimbus rubriceps, Lamprocolius melanogaster, Laniarius quadricolor, Nectarinia mariquensis,* and *Turturœna delegorguei.* The following eight species are described as new: —*Calamoherpe griseldis, Pratincola emmæ, Bradypterus alfredi, Burnesia reichenowi, Erythropygia hartlaubi, Ploceus holoxanthus, Nectarinia filiola,* and *Sternula novella.*

* Journ. Linn. Soc., Zool. xviii. p. 419.

J.f.O. 1887. 150.13.

Dr. Hartlaub gives in his prefatory remarks a very useful list of 43 papers relating to the ornithology of this part of Eastern Equatorial Africa.

78. *Lawrence on the former abundance of Migrants near New York.*

[An Account of the Former Abundance of some species of Birds on New York Island, at the time of their Migration to the South. By George N. Lawrence. 'The Auk,' vi. p. 201.]

The veteran ornithologist, Mr. G. N. Lawrence of New York, records his early recollections of the abundance of autumnal migrants flying south in former years, when his home was on the high ground to the north of Manhattanville, and fronting the Hudson River. He was allowed to have a gun first in 1820 (!) and appears to have used it with great success on the enormous flights of Passenger Pigeons and other birds then met with. At the present time a single Passenger Pigeon would be a rarity in this district.

79. *Lawrence on a new Swift and a rare Petrel.*

[Description of a new Subspecies of Cypselidæ of the Genus *Chætura*, with a Note on the Diablotin. By George N. Lawrence. 'The Auk,' viii. p. 59.]

Mr. Lawrence separates the *Chætura* of Guadeloupe from its allied form of Dominica as *Chætura dominica colardeaui*. He adds a note on the "Diablotin" of Guadeloupe, which, according to the information received from Dr. Colardeau, is probably *Œstrelata hæsitata*. Dr. Colardeau does not believe that this bird is quite extinct in Guadeloupe.

80. *Leverkühn on strange Eggs in Birds'-nests.*

[Fremde Eier im Nest.—Ein Beitrag zur Biologie der Vögel. Von Paul Leverkühn. Nebst einer bibliographischen Notiz über Lottinger. 8vo. Berlin und London: 1891.]

In a memoir of some 200 pages, Herr Leverkühn discusses what is to us a somewhat novel ornithological

subject—that is, the behaviour of birds when strange eggs are introduced into their nests. We all know that a large number of Passerine birds do not object to Cuckoos' eggs, but it would seem that for some reason they are by no means always ready to adopt the eggs of other species. Herr Leverkühn divides his theme into four heads : (1) as regards eggs of the same species introduced by other birds; (2) as regards such eggs introduced by man; (3) as regards eggs of other species introduced by other birds; (4) as regards such eggs introduced by man ; and gives us a mass of details under each head. We cannot exactly understand the drift of Herr Leverkühn's memoir as a whole, or make out that he comes to any very definite conclusions on the subject. But the habits of our feathered friends are always interesting under any aspect, and the essay will be read with pleasure by many students of bird-life.

A complete *résumé* of references to the nesting-habits of the Megapodes, introduced as a footnote (pp. 36–45), is a very useful compilation.

81. *Lilford's 'Coloured Figures of British Birds.'*

[Coloured Figures of the Birds of the British Islands. Issued by Lord Lilford, F.Z.S. &c., President of the British Ornithologists' Union. Part XI., September 1889; XII., January 1890; XIII., March 1890; XIV., May 1890; XV., July 1890; XVI., September 1890; XVII., February 1891. 8vo. London.]

We have been rather remiss, it may well be said, in not having chronicled the regular appearance of our President's series of illustrations of British Bird-life during the two years last past. Our last notice (Ibis, 1889, p. 386) related to Parts V. to X. We have now to record the issue of seven more parts, each containing 12 beautiful chromo-lithographs and the accompanying letterpress.

It is hardly necessary to state that the work is appreciated by the public as its merits deserve. It is sufficient, indeed, to point to the fact that the entire edition is already subscribed for, and that a second edition is in preparation. After this experience it can be no longer said that birds are

not good subjects for the improved modern art of chromolithography. At the same time, on examining Lord Lilford's plates, it becomes at once evident that some subjects are much better adapted for treatment in this way than others.

82. *Lydekker on Fossil Birds in the Dublin Museum.*

[Catalogue of Fossil Mammals, Birds, Reptiles, and Amphibians in the Science and Art Museum. By R. Lydekker, B.A. Dublin : 1891.]

Mr. Lydekker has catalogued the fossil remains belonging to the first four classes of Vertebrates in the Science and Art Museum at Dublin, and pronounces the collection to be one of great value in certain particulars. The specimens referable to the Class Aves are not numerous, but amongst them are some of considerable interest to British ornithologists. A right humerus from the Ballynamintra Cave in Waterford is assigned to *Tetrao tetrix*, and is "very important as proving the former existence of that species in Ireland, of which there has been no (prior) evidence." Similarly, bones from the same cave and from Shandon Cave in the same county testify to the former presence of the Ptarmigan (*Lagopus mutus*) in Ireland.

83. *Lydekker's Catalogue of Fossil Birds.*

[Catalogue of the Fossil Birds in the British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, S.W. By Richard Lydekker, B.A. London : 1891.]

The study of fossil birds has been comparatively neglected by ornithologists, although it is obvious that, as in the case of other Vertebrates, we cannot hope to understand the Class Aves properly without a knowledge of its extinct forms. My. Lydekker's Catalogue gives us an excellent summary of the present state of our acquaintance with fossil birds, as he introduces into his series "all extinct birds (with the exception of those belonging to the Passeres and Picariæ) from the Tertiaries of Europe, which have received distinct specific names, and have been described or figured with sufficient exactness to entitle them to rank as species."

In recent birds, as is well known, more than half the characterized species belong to the great Order Passeres. But fossil Passeres are almost unknown. Some six pages only are devoted by Mr. Lydekker to this portion of the subject, and not a single extinct genus of Passeres is included in the list. On the other hand, we find nearly half the volume devoted to the remains of Ratitæ—an order very meagrely represented in modern days, but extensively diffused in former epochs. The "Imperfection of the Geological Record" is, of course, partly answerable for this strong contrast; but the Passeres are emphatically a modern and highly developed group, and the Ratitæ an ancient one of low organization.

Fossil birds, Mr. Lydekker tells us, are mainly known to us by more or less imperfect long-bones and coracoids, and on these remains principally their osteological characters are consequently based. The clearly drawn woodcuts interspersed throughout this volume mostly relate to these fragments, and will give much assistance to their study. One of the great features of the National Collection is the grand series of the remains of the Dinornithidæ of New Zealand, of which 22 species are embraced in the present Catalogue.

The following new genera of fossil birds are now first introduced:—

Actiornis (Phalacrocoracidæ); *Proherodius* (Ardeidæ), *Propelargus*, *Amphipelargus* (Ciconiidæ); *Ibidopsis* (Plataleidæ); *Geranopsis* (Gruidæ); *Milnea* (Œdicnemidæ); *Ægialornis* (Ægialornithidæ); *Pseudapteryx* (Apterygidæ); *Pachyornis* (Dinornithidæ); *Hypselornis* (Casuariidæ).

New species described in the volume are the following:—

Strix melitensis, Pelecanus fraasi, Actiornis anglicus, Proherodius oweni, Propelargus cayluxensis, Amphipelargus majori, Ibidopsis hordwelliensis, Elornis anglicus, Agnopterus hatoniensis, Fuligula arvernensis, Columba melitensis, Palæortyx cayluxensis, Grus hordwelliensis, Geranopsis hastingsiæ, Otis affinis, Milnea gracilis, Ægialornis gallicus, Diomedea anglica, Colymboides anglicus, Pseudapteryx gracilis, Megalapteryx tenuipes, Pachyornis immanis, Hypselornis sivalensis.

A new name (*Emeus gravipes*) is proposed for *Emeus gravis*, Owen.

The volume contains accounts of about 129 genera and 250 species of fossil birds.

84. *Meyer on an albino Grey-hen in male plumage.*

[Partieller Albinismus einer hahnenfedrigen Birkhenne. Von A. B. Meyer. 'Diana,' 1891, p. 162.]

Dr. A. B. Meyer has kindly sent us a number of 'Diana,' a Swiss sporting journal published at Berne, in which he has described a partially albino hen of *Tetrao tetrix* in male plumage. The specimen, obtained in Entlebuch, had been variously determined by those who had previously examined it. But it has now fortunately become one of the fine series of varieties and hybrids of the Tetraones in the Royal Zoological Museum at Dresden, and we may safely rely on Dr. Meyer's determination of it. His remarks on this curious bird will be read with interest.

85. *Meyer and Helm's Report on the Ornithological Observing-Stations for Saxony for* 1889.

[V. Jahresbericht (1889) der ornithologischen Beobachtungstationen im Königreich Sachsen, bearbeitet von Dr. A. B. Meyer und von Dr. F. Helm. 4to. Dresden: 1890.]

We have the pleasure of calling attention to another of this excellent series of reports (*cf.* Ibis, 1890, p. 251), which is a model of what such publications should be. It contains the accounts of 47 observers for 1889. There are 208 species of birds included in the list.

86. *North on the plumage of* Malurus.

[Notes upon the Plumage of the Adult Males in certain species of the Genus *Malurus*. By A. J. North, F.L.S. Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S. Wales, ser. 2, v. p. 505.]

Gould was in error, according to Mr. North and other Australian authorities, in asserting that the male *Maluri*

only assume their full dress during the pairing-season. It would seem that the fully adult plumage of the male, after having been once assumed, is never cast off again. This is certainly the case in *M. cyaneus*, and appears to be so in other species.

87. *Pelzeln on the History of the Bird Collection at Vienna.*

[Geschichte der Säugethier- und Vogel-Sammlung des k. k. naturhistorischen Hofmuseums. Von August von Pelzeln. Annalen k. k. naturh. Hofmus. v. Heft 4, 1890.]

Herr v. Pelzeln gives us here a very useful and interesting account of the history of the collections of Mammals and Birds belonging to the Vienna Museum, well known as one of the principal museums of Europe, and of which the proper title, under its new organization, is now the "Imperial Royal Court-Museum of Natural History." It was commenced in 1794, when the Emperor Francis the Second purchased of Joseph Natterer, his Falconer, a series of native mammals and birds, and gave him orders to make it as complete a collection of the Mammals and Birds of the Austrian Empire as possible. Joseph Natterer, Jr., succeeded his father as Custos of the Bird-collection in 1810. He was the elder brother of Johann Natterer, probably the best and most successful collector of birds that has ever lived, who was made "Custos-adjunct" to Joseph Natterer in 1835, after his return from his celebrated expedition to Brazil. Johann Natterer died in 1843, and his brother Josef in 1851, after which Heckel was Custos of the Ornithological Collection until his death in 1857, when he was followed by Herr v. Pelzeln, who on his recent retirement was succeeded by Dr. L. v. Lorenz.

Herr v. Pelzeln enumerates the various additions to the Ornithological Collection from its foundation to the present day, mentioning all the more important acquisitions, amongst which the most noteworthy, perhaps, are the series of Latham's types from the "Museum Leverianum" purchased in London in 1806, and the great Brazilian Collection of Johann Natterer.

88. *Pidsley and Macpherson on the Birds of Devon.*

[The Birds of Devonshire. By William E. H. Pidsley. Edited, with an Introduction and short Memoir of the late John Gatcombe, by H. A. Macpherson, M.A. With map and coloured plate. 8vo. London and Exeter: 1891.]

The outside of this work is embellished by a reproduction in gold of Mr. Lodge's beautiful illustration of the Goshawk, drawn expressly for Mr. Saunders's 'Illustrated Manual of British Birds.' Although, as we understand, substantial recompense was made to the publishers, the motive for this appropriation is not very obvious, inasmuch as the Goshawk is not included among the birds of Devon. Turning to the inside, we find a coloured frontispiece, by Mr. Keulemans, of a Buff-backed Heron in breeding-plumage, but seeing that Montagu's Devonian specimen—still in the British Museum—is in winter dress, an exact portrait of the only well authenticated British example would have been preferable. We cannot say how much worse the text would have been without the intervention of the Rev. H. A. Macpherson, but even his editorship has not availed to make a satisfactory work out of the odds and ends from 'The Zoologist' and other works, strung together by Mr. Pidsley. The treatment of many species is somewhat meagre, and, while we commend the author's discretion respecting the breeding-haunts of the Chough, there can be no reason for similar reticence as to a celebrated nesting-place of Cormorants in North Devon, visible for miles round. More also might well have been said of the ancient colony of Gannets on Lundy Island. In the fourth edition of 'Yarrell' a specimen of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper was recorded as having been shot on the above-named island, and as being in the collection of Dr. Woodforde, near Taunton, where numbers of ornithologists have seen it. Yet Mr. Pidsley ignores this, substituting a notice of a supposed specimen shot near Kingsbridge in 1857, which is set down in Mr. Harting's 'Handbook of British Birds' as a young *Machetes pugnax*. The notes by the editor, and his memoir of that excellent ornithologist, the late John Gatcombe, form the redeeming feature of this work.

89. *Pleske's 'Ornithographia Rossica.'*

[Ornithographia Rossica. Die Vogelfauna des Russischen Reichs. Von Th. Pleske. Band II. Lief. 4. *Hypolais* und *Lusciniola*; Lief. 3 & 4. Rohrsänger (*Acrocephalus*). 4to. St. Pétersbourg: 1890.]

We have now received Parts 3 and 4 * of this valuable work, which we are glad to see making good progress. They continue the history of the Sylviidæ of the Russian Empire and seem to be most carefully elaborated in every particular.

The following species are figured on plate iii. :—*Lusciniola* (*Herbivocula*) *schwarzi*, *L.* (*Herbivocula*) *neglecta*, *L.* (*Dumeticola*) *intermedia*, and *Acrocephalus* (*Calamodus*) *bistrigiceps*.

90. *Raeburn on the Great Skua.*

[The Great Skua (*Stercorarius catarrhactes*): its present status as a British Bird. By Harold Raeburn. Scott. Nat. 1891, p. 18.]

Mr. Raeburn gives us very interesting information on an ornithological subject which has recently attracted much public attention, and has actually been honoured with a "leader" in 'The Times' †, namely the present state of the three colonies of the Great Skua existing in the British Islands. These breeding-stations are all in the Shetland group—Foula, Unst, and Northmavin, the last named, originally the largest, being now almost deserted. In 1890 the only pair of young hatched on Northmavin were carried off. Altogether it is estimated that "about 75 pairs are the entire number of Great Skuas at present nesting on British soil."

91. *Sclater and Shelley on the Picariæ.*

[Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum. Vol. XIX. Catalogue of the Picariæ: Scansores and Coccyges, comprising the families Rhamphastidæ, Galbulidæ, and Bucconidæ, by P. L. Sclater; and the families Indicatoridæ, Capitonidæ, Cuculidæ, and Musophagidæ, by G. E. Shelley. London: 1891.]

The nineteenth volume of the Catalogue of Birds, which has been recently issued, contains an account of the remaining

* *Cf.* previous notice, Ibis, 1890, p. 255.

† See 'The Times,' March 21st, 1891.

families of "Scansores," according to the arrangement adopted in this work, and of the two families of the suborder "Coccyges." The Picidæ, which are regarded as the first family of Scansores, were treated of by Mr. Hargitt in the eighteenth volume. The present volume commences with the Indicatoridæ and Capitonidæ, which have been catalogued by Capt. Shelley. Of the former family 12 species are recognized, represented in the collection by 86 specimens; of the latter 112 species, represented by 2183 specimens. Next follow the Rhamphastidæ (59 species, 673 specimens), Galbulidæ (21 species, 243 specimens), and Bucconidæ (43 species and 419 specimens), catalogued by the Editor of this Journal. The volume concludes with the Coccyges, catalogued by Capt. Shelley. Of this suborder the Cuculidæ contain 176 species, represented in the British Museum by 5423 specimens, and the Musophagidæ 25 species, represented by 204 specimens.

Out of the 448 species recorded in the present volume, only 32 are not represented in the National Collection.

One new genus is founded in the present volume, *Urococcyx*, for *Phœnicophaus erythrognathus*. The following new species are introduced by Capt. Shelley:—*Xantholæma intermedia*, *Capito granadensis*, *C. salvini*, *Coccyzus dominicæ*, and *Centropus purpureus*. A new Jacamar is named *Brachygalba fulviventris* by his coadjutor.

The following species are figured in the present volume:—*Melanobucco æquatorialis*; *Tricholæma stigmatothorax* and *T. affine*; *Barbatula chrysopyga* and *B. bilineata*; heads of *Cyanops davisoni*, *C. ramsayi*, and *C. incognita*, *Capito versicolor*, *C. steeri*, *C. richardsoni*, *C. salvini*, *C. granadensis*, and *C. bourcieri*; *Pteroglossus didymus*; *Aulacorhamphus erythrognathus*, *A. calorhynchus*, *A. whitelyanus*, and *A. cyanolæmus*; *Coccystes caroli* and *C. hypopinarius*; heads of *Coccyzus dominicæ*, *C. minor*, and *C. maynardi*; and *Centropus purpureus*.

92. *Stone on the Species of* Psilorhinus.

[On the Genus *Psilorhinus*, Rüppell. By Witmer Stone. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philad. 1891, p. 94.]

After examining the specimens in the Museum of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia (which comprehend the type of *Corvus vociferus*, Cabot), and those in the National Museum, Mr. Stone can recognize but two species of *Psilorhinus*. These are *P. morio*, extending from Tehuantepec north to the Rio Grande valley, and *P. mexicanus*, ranging from Southern Mexico to Costa Rica, with the *possibility* of a third distinct form (*P. vociferus*) in Yucatan. The so-called *P. cyanogenys* of Sharpe is not distinct from *P. mexicanus*.

Messrs. Salvin and Godman have come to nearly the same conclusions (Biol. C.-A., Aves, i. p. 506).

93. *Von den Steinen on the Birds of South Georgia.*

[Die internationale Polarforschung 1882-1883. Die Deutschen Expeditionem und ihre Ergebnisse. Band II. Beschreibende Naturwissenschaften in einzelnen Abhandlungen, herausgegeben in Auftrage der Deutschen Polar-Commission von deren Vorsitzendem Dr. G. Neumayer. Berlin: 1890.]

The second volume of the memoirs of the German Section of the International Polar Commission of 1882–83 contains an excellent chapter on the Seals and Birds of South Georgia, which is well worthy of attention. The German Expedition passed a year in that remote island, from August 1882 to September 1883, and had full opportunities of studying its animal life. A general account of the birds collected by the Expedition was published by the late Dr. Pagenstecher in 1885 (see Ibis, 1885, p. 319). We have now a mass of instructive details upon the ways and habits of the 22 species met with, illustrated by very characteristic sketches. We may remark that the so-called *Querquedula eatoni* of South Georgia has been determined by Dr. Cabanis to be different from the true *Q. eatoni* of Kerguelen Island, and named *Querquedula antarctica* (see J. f. O. 1888, p. 118).